

W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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FCC Adopts New Antenna Structure Registration Procedure

On Nov. 30, 1995, the Federal Communications Commission updated Rule 97.15 (d) in the Amateur Radio Service, and the rules for many other radio services, to accommodate new regulation of antenna structures (the FCC uses the term "antenna structures" rather than "towers"). These structures are regulated in Part 17 of the Rules.

Not all antenna structures are affected. The new rules apply to those constructing, owning or renting space on antenna structures tall enough to be hazardous to aviation. This includes antenna structures taller than 200 feet, or that may interfere with the approach or departure space of a nearby airport runway.

The Federal Aviation Administration must be notified of these structures. The FAA determines whether the structure may be hazardous, and may recommend special painting and lighting. For example, the FAA may recommend that the structure have red beacons, white strobe lights, and white and orange painted bands.

The FCC then uses the FAA's decision to impose requirements on its licensees. Part 17 of the FCC Rules explains the FCC's requirements for painting and lighting of antenna structures, including such details as the number, type and location of lights and the colors and patterns used to paint the structure. The FAA does not have legal authority to mandate painting or lighting of antenna structures; only the FCC does. The new Amateur Radio rule reads as follows: (Rules § 97.15 (a),(b), (c) and (e) were not changed.)

§ 97.15 Station antenna structures.

(d) Further details as to whether an aeronautical study is required or if the structure must be registered, painted or lighted are contained in Part 17 of the FCC Rules, Construction, Marking, and Lighting of Antenna Structures. To request approval to place an antenna structure higher than the limits specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, the licensee must notify the FAA using FAA Form 7460-1 and the structure owner must register the structure using FCC Form 854.

Of the 500,000 antenna structures in the U.S., about 75,000 require notification to the FAA. On average, there are 12 tenant licensees on each of these 75,000 structures. Currently, every licensee on a structure must notify the FCC of changes in painting and lighting, height, or corrections to site coordinates.

But the FCC has received Congressional approval to require only the structure's owner to file this information. This will result in a 12 to 1 reduction in the amount of antenna structure paperwork filed with the FCC.

The FCC will "register" structure owners and will hold them, rather than radio licensees, primarily responsible for official notification and safe maintenance of the structure. (A sign bearing the structure's FCC Registration Number must be displayed at the structure's base. In the case of structures on top of buildings, the sign must be posted on the structure base, not on the base of the building.)

FCC officials emphasized, however, that if the structure owner is not available, out of business or

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refuses to comply with regulations (to get the tower lights working, for example), the Commission will demand that radio licensees take responsibility or face penalties - even if they are only tenants on the structure. FCC Compliance and Information Bureau Chief Beverly Baker noted that this is something "...we have absolutely no sense of humor about."

"If a tenant licensee has reason to believe that the structure is not in compliance or that the owner is not carrying out its responsibility to maintain the structure as required by Part 17 of the Rules, the licensee must immediately notify the owner, notify the site management company (if applicable), notify the Commission, and make a diligent effort to ensure that the antenna structure is brought into compliance," the FCC said.

"We are not, however, requiring licensees to independently monitor the antenna structure. Instead, licensees must assume responsibility and take appropriate action if circumstances would lead a reasonable person to question whether the structure is being maintained. For example, if a licensee becomes aware that electrical power is no longer available at the site or has rental payment for antenna space returned due to unavailability of the owner, the licensee must take reasonable actions to ensure that the structure is immediately brought into compliance."

Registration timetable

After July 1, 1996, all new antenna structures that require FAA clearance must be registered with the FCC. Existing antenna structures must be registered over a two-year period between July 1, 1996 and June 30, 1998. This period is divided into "Filing Windows" by state or U.S. territory:

(1996) July 1-31 MI, MT; Aug 1-31 AZ, HI, NC; Sept 1-30 AK, NM, NY; Oct 1-31 MA, MO; Nov 1-30 IL, WY; Dec 1-31 NV, OK, PR; (1997) Jan 1-Feb 28 CA, OH; Mar 1-31 IA, VA; Apr 1-30 AS, GA, GM, GU, MP, VI; May 1-31 LA, ME, RI; Jun 1-31 CO, MN; Jul 1-31 NE, PA; Aug 1-Sept 30 FL, IN; Oct 1-31 DE, KS, WA; Nov 1-30 NH, OR, WI, WV; Dec 1-31 AL, DC, MD; (1998) Jan 1-31 AR, ND, UT; Feb 1-28 ID, MS, SD, VT; Mar 1-31 KY, TN; Apr 1-30 CT, NJ, SC and May 1-Jun 30 TX.

Every applicable antenna structure will have to be registered before it is built. The FAA may decide that such structures need to be lighted during construction.

The FCC will require location data for the structure in terms of degrees, minutes and seconds, and height to the nearest meter. The antenna structure registration database will accept latitude and longitude data, in "either the NAD 27 or NAD 83 datum," up to an accuracy of one second and height to one meter.

Owners must specify which datum is used and may use surveying tools of differing accuracy, such as maps or GPS receivers. Seven and one-half minute geological maps may yield accuracies within one sec-

ond. GPS receivers may be accurate to 100m (about 3.3 seconds), while GPS receivers with differential corrections may be accurate to 1 meter (about 0.05 sec.)

How to Register

The FCC is revising Form 854, which structure owners will use to register. The FCC found that it could not combine this form with the FAA form 7460-1. Therefore, owners will have to file both forms with the respective agencies if they file by mail. The FCC will announce when the new Form 854 is available.

The FCC also will permit owners to file electronically. "Permitting owners to file electronically will eliminate processing delays by registering antenna structures within minutes of filing an application," the FCC said. "Not all owners will have similar needs when filing FCC Form 854, thus the Commission intends to permit owners to file electronically or in the traditional manner by mail. Using either filing method, the owner of a proposed structure could begin construction as soon as a registration number is obtained. Detailed instructions on how to register electronically will be described in a future Public Notice and published in the Federal Register."

In a stark departure from its usual procedures, the FCC will not charge a registration fee. A fee will be charged, however, to access the antenna registration database. "After a majority of the existing structures are registered, we may consider permitting on-line queries of the antenna registration database through a '900' telephone number on a fee-per-minute basis," the FCC said.

"Prior to providing a '900' telephone number service, the Commission will initiate a notice and comment proceeding concerning applicable fees. Such fee-per-minute charges would only apply to value-added access to the database, such as on-line status reports for registration applications.

"Database searches and copies of the entire database, however, would continue to be available from the Commission's copy contractor or free of charge through the Internet. Further, we will continue to investigate the creation of other tools, such as providing the registration database in CD ROM format."

Renewals not required

The FCC will not require owners to renew their registration. "There is little benefit in mandating a renewal process for tens of thousands of owners, when only a small percentage will need to update registration information in the next five or ten years," the FCC said. Instead, owners must notify the Commission, using Form 854, of any change of structure height, ownership, owner's address, or upon dismantling the structure.

SPECIAL REPORT

COMMISSION ISSUES FCC FORM 610-V VANITY CALL SIGN APPLICATION

After some two years of rulemaking and additional delays caused by appeals from the ham radio community, the Amateur Service "vanity" call sign program is about to get underway.

On August 10, 1993, President Clinton signed his well publicized *Deficit Reduction Plan* into law. Tucked away on page 57 was a provision for Amateur Radio station call signs to be selected by the user. Getting this provision incorporated was largely the work of a single, very persistent Texas amateur who told Congress that ham operators wanted - and were willing to pay for - station call signs of their choosing. It was a bombshell! Neither the ARRL nor the FCC were aware of this effort until it happened!

For decades, the FCC had said that they could not grant special call signs because there was no provision in the law for charging for Amateur Radio Operator licenses and station call signs. Furthermore, they did not have the data processing ability with their present system to provide for a special call sign program. But a new Amateur Service computer system came online during early 1994 and with it, the capability to handle assignment of user-selected station call signs.

According to the original legislation, the cost of a special call sign was to have been \$7.00 a year ...or \$70.00 for a ten year term license. Last summer, however, the FCC reduced the fee to \$30.00 to more closely reflect the actual cost of the program.

The American Radio Relay League quickly formed an *Ad Hoc Committee on Vanity Call Signs* to develop how they thought the program should be administered. On December 23, 1994 the FCC Commissioners adopted final rules implementing vanity call signs in the Amateur Service and the ARRL suggestion that the system should be phased in was adopted. But the League's proposal of a one-time \$150 application fee (which would require additional Congressional approval) rather than a payment for each license term was not.

Initially the FCC was to assign the first available call sign from a list of ten preferential call signs. The call sign selected also had to be within the framework of the sequential call sign system wherein certain groups of call signs are designated for each class of operator license. At ARRL's urging, the number of selections was changed to 25 to increase the chances of obtaining an assignable call sign. A system of "opening gates" was established. The FCC said they would announce the opening of each gate by Public Notice.

The new FCC Form 610-V was first completed almost a year ago. This is the application form that

would be used to request the specific call sign choices. But its release to the public was held up pending resolution of several *Petitions of Reconsideration*. Several amateurs and the ARRL wanted the FCC to change certain facets of the program. The League was particularly unhappy with the provision that an amateur could select an available call sign from other regions. And a second round of petitions were filed after the FCC ruled on the first batch.

Finally, on November 29, 1995, the FCC resolved all of the issues and issued Fact Sheet PR5000, Number 206-V detailing how the vanity call sign program would work. The following is a verbatim copy of this release:

AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN SYSTEM

A vanity call sign (a call sign selected by the FCC from a list of call signs requested by the station licensee or license trustee) may be requested for a primary or club station. The request must be made by the licensee or, in the case of a club station, by the club station license trustee, on FCC Form 610-V *Amateur Radio Station Vanity Call Sign Request*. It must be filed with the required fee. (See FCC Form 1070-V for mailing instructions and fee requirement.) RACES and military recreation stations are not eligible for vanity call signs.

The requestor may list up to twenty-five call signs in order of preference. The exact prefix, numeral, and suffix must be given for each call sign. Requests stated in general terms such as, "Any call sign with my initials" or "Any call sign having the prefix (or suffix) ____" will be dismissed. The first assignable call sign on the list for which the requestor is eligible will be shown on the license grant for the requestor's station and the original call sign will be vacated. Should no requested call sign be assignable to the station, the original call sign will continue to be shown on the license grant.

A call sign is assignable two years following license expiration, surrender, revocation, set aside, cancellation, void *ab initio*, or death of the grantee. See Fact Sheet PR5000 #206 *Sequential Call Sign System* for explanation of call sign group, format, and prefix (See Table No. 1) The exceptions are:

- ▶ **Former holder** - The two year requirement do not apply to an otherwise eligible primary station if call sign was previously assigned to the primary, secondary, repeater, control, auxiliary link, or sp; station of the requestor.

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► **Close relative of former holder now deceased** - Upon the death of the holder, a call sign is assignable **immediately** to an otherwise eligible primary station of a *close relative* (the holder's spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law).

► **Request in memoriam** - Upon the death of the holder, the call sign is assignable **immediately** to an otherwise eligible club station. The trustee's files must include a written statement from a close relative, as listed above, of the deceased showing consent of the relative to the request.

Call sign group eligibility is determined by the requestor's class of operator license:

- Amateur Extra - Group A, B, C, or D.
- Advanced - Group B, C, or D.
- General - Group C or D.
- Technician Plus - Group C or D.
- Technician - Group C or D.
- Novice - Group D.

The only exception is:

• **Former holder** - The operator class requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible primary station if the call sign was previously assigned to the primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, or space station of the requestor.

Requestor's mailing address determines eligibility for call sign format and prefix:

- **One of the contiguous 48 states** - Regions 1-10.
- **Alaska** - Regions 1-11
- **American Samoa** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 13 having the numeral 8.
- **Commonwealth of Northern Mariana** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 13 having the numeral 0.
- **Guam** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 13 having the numeral 2.
- **Hawaii** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 13 having numeral 6 or 7.
- **Puerto Rico** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 12 having the numeral 3 or 4.
- **Virgin Islands** - Regions 1-10 or a prefix in Region 12 having the numeral 2.

The exceptions are:

► **Former holder** - The mailing address requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible primary station if the call sign was previously assigned to the primary, secondary, repeater, control, auxiliary link, or space station of the requestor.

► **Close relative of former holder now deceased** - The mailing address requirement does not apply to the otherwise eligible primary station of a close relative, as listed above.

► **Request in memoriam** - The mailing address

eligibility requirement **does not** apply in the case of an otherwise eligible club station for a vanity call sign requested *in memoriam*. The trustee's files must include a written statement from a close relative, as listed above, of the deceased showing consent of the relative to the request.

Starting gates are being used to implement the system in stages. Applications filed before the appropriate starting gate opens will be dismissed. A public notice will announce the opening of each gate. They are:

• Gate 1

- (1) A **primary station licensee** of any class operator may request the call sign previously shown on the license.
- (2) Or on the primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control, or space station of a now-deceased close relative.
- (3) A **club station licensee trustee** of any class operator may request the call sign previously shown on the club station license.

• Gate 1(A)

A license trustee of a club station may request in memoriam the call sign previously shown on the station license of a deceased person who was a member of the club. The club must have held a club station license grant on March 24, 1995. The trustee's files must include a letter from a close relative, as listed above, of the deceased confirming the deceased person's association with the club and show consent of the relative to the request.

• Gate 2

- (1) An **Amateur Extra Class operator** may request a Group A, B, C, or D call sign for his or her primary station.
- (2) An **Amateur Extra Class operator** may request, including request *in memoriam*, a Group A, B, C, or D call sign for the club station for which he or she is license trustee.

• Gate 3

- (1) An **Advanced Class operator** may request a Group B, C, or D call sign for his or her primary station.
- (2) An **Advanced Class operator** may request, including request *in memoriam*, a Group B, C, or D call sign for the club station for which he or she is license trustee.

• Gate 4

- (1) A **General, Technician Plus, or Technician Class operator** may request a Group C or D call sign for his or her primary station.
- (2) An **General, Technician Plus, or Technician**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

FOR
FCC
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FCC 610V - AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN REQUEST

CAREFULLY READ THE ATTACHED INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILING THIS FORM

SECTION 1 - TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

1. Print or type Last Name, Suffix, First Name, Middle Initial. If a club, enter club name.

2. Date of Birth

3. Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP Code

4. Payment Type Code

W A V R

5. Fee Due

\$

FOR FCC USE ONLY

6. I hereby request that the currently assigned amateur station call sign _____ be vacated.

7. I hereby apply for a vanity call sign under the following eligibility (make an X in the appropriate box and enter the required information):

7A. ☐ **FORMER PRIMARY STATION HOLDER:** I request call sign _____ be shown on my primary station license. This call sign was previously shown on my primary station license. **AVAILABLE UNDER ALL GATES.**

7B. ☐ **CLOSE RELATIVE OF FORMER HOLDER:** I request call sign _____ be shown on my primary station license. This call sign was previously shown on the primary station license of my deceased spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law. Enter your relationship to the deceased: _____. **AVAILABLE UNDER ALL GATES.**

7C. ☐ **FORMER CLUB STATION HOLDER:** I request call sign _____ be shown on the license for the club station for which I am the license trustee. This call sign was previously shown on the license for this club station. **AVAILABLE UNDER ALL GATES.**

7D. ☐ **CLUB STATION WITH CONSENT OF CLOSE RELATIVE OF FORMER HOLDER:** I request call sign _____ to be shown on the license for the club station for which I am the license trustee. The club was established prior to and was in existence on March 24, 1995. This call sign was previously shown on the primary station license of a person now deceased. I am acting with written consent of the deceased person's spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law. Enter the relationship to the deceased of the person giving consent: _____. **AVAILABLE UNDER GATES 1(A), 2, 3 AND 4.**

7E. ☐ **PRIMARY STATION PREFERENCE LIST:** I request the first assignable call sign from my preference list in item 9 be shown on the license for my primary station. **AVAILABLE TO AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS OPERATORS UNDER GATE 2; TO ADVANCED CLASS OPERATORS UNDER GATE 3; TO GENERAL, TECHNICIAN PLUS, TECHNICIAN, AND NOVICE UNDER GATE 4.**

7F. ☐ **CLUB STATION PREFERENCE LIST:** I request the first assignable call sign from my preference list in item 9 be shown on the license for the club station for which I am the license trustee.

8. Attach a photocopy of your current amateur operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) here. If you checked item 7C, 7D or 7F, attach a photocopy of the current club station license document (FCC Form 660) here.

SECTION 2 - TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANTS WHO HAVE CHECKED ITEMS 7E OR 7F

9. Select your preference list of vanity call signs very carefully. Give the exact prefix, numeral and suffix for each call sign.

1. _____	6. _____	11. _____	16. _____	21. _____
2. _____	7. _____	12. _____	17. _____	22. _____
3. _____	8. _____	13. _____	18. _____	23. _____
4. _____	9. _____	14. _____	19. _____	24. _____
5. _____	10. _____	15. _____	20. _____	25. _____

SECTION 3 - TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

WILLFUL FALSE STATEMENTS MADE ON THIS FORM ARE PUNISHABLE BY FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 18, SECTION 1001), AND/OR REVOCATION OF ANY STATION LICENSE OR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT (U.S. CODE, TITLE 47, SECTION 312(A)(1)), AND/OR FORFEITURE (U.S. CODE, TITLE 47, SECTION 503).

I CERTIFY THAT ALL STATEMENTS AND ATTACHMENTS ARE TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND ARE MADE IN GOOD FAITH.

10. Signature of applicant (Do not print, type or stamp.) X	11. Date signed	12. Daytime Telephone No. ()
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NOTE:

If none of the call signs that you requested are assignable, the call sign that you vacated will be shown on your station license.

Do NOT send this form to the FCC in Gettysburg, PA, Washington, DC, or any local Field Office. See attached INSTRUCTIONS for filing information.

NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AND THE PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT OF 1980

The solicitation of personal information requested in this form is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. The Commission will use the information provided in this form to determine whether grant of this application is in the public interest. In reaching that determination, or for law enforcement purposes, it may become necessary to refer personal information contained in this form to another government agency. In addition, all information provided in this form, as well as the form itself, will be available for public inspection. If information requested on the form is not provided, processing of the application may be delayed or the application may be returned without action pursuant to Commission Rules. Applicants need not comply with this collection of information if this form does not contain an OMB approval number. The foregoing notice is required by the Privacy Act of 1974, Public Law 93-579, December 31, 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a(e)(3).

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, can be sent to the Federal Communications Commission, Records Management Branch, AMD-IM, Washington, DC 20554, Paperwork Reduction Project (3060-0635). DO NOT SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THIS ADDRESS.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION FORM 610-V

(Do not return instructions with application form)

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Use the attached FCC Form 610-V to request a vanity call sign for your primary or club station license. The license term for a vanity call sign is 10 years. (Please note, you are not required to file for a vanity call sign, you may continue to operate under a computer generated call sign if you so desire. There is no fee currently associated to a computer generated call sign for a primary or club station license.)

Detach the FCC Form 610-V from these instructions. Make a photocopy of your completed FCC Form 610-V for your records. Refer to FCC 1070-V for the current fee and mailing information for this application or call the FCC's Consumer Assistance Branch at (800) 322-1117 or (717) 337-1212. **Do not send your FCC Form 610-V to the FCC address in Gettysburg, PA, Washington, DC, or any field office.**

File the attached FCC Form 610-V only if you hold an unexpired license document (FCC Form 660) for that station.

Do not use the attached FCC Form 610-V to request:

1. An examination for a new amateur operator/primary station license or for a modification of your license to show a higher operator class. Use FCC Form 610.
2. A modification of your name or mailing address as it appears in your license, or for the license to show a different call sign selected by the sequential call sign system (the FCC selects the call sign from an alphabetized list corresponding to the geographic region of your mailing address and operator class). Use FCC Form 610 for an operator/primary station license. Use FCC Form 610-B for a club, military recreation, or RACES station license.
3. A renewal of your license. Use FCC Form 610 for an operator/primary station license and FCC Form 610-B for a club, military recreation, or RACES station license.
4. A Reciprocal Permit for Alien Amateur Licensee. Use FCC Form 610-A.
5. A new club or military recreation station license. Use FCC Form 610-B.

The vanity call sign system is being implemented using a series of five starting gates. Each gate will be announced by a public notice. As each gate opens, more amateur operators become eligible for a vanity call sign. **DO NOT** file this form until such time as the gate opens for which you are eligible, otherwise, your application will be dismissed. The gates are:

Gate 1 → A person holding a current operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) showing any class of operator license and who has checked item 7A or 7B. Additionally, any person holding a current operator/primary station license document showing any class of operator license and who also holds the license document for a club station for which he/she is the license trustee and who has checked item 7C.

Gate 1(A) → A person holding a current primary/operator station license document showing any class of operator license and who also holds the license document for a club station for which he/she is the license trustee and who has checked item 7D.

Gate 2 → A person holding a current operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) showing Amateur Extra class of operator license and who has checked item 7E. Additionally, any person holding a current operator/primary station license document showing Amateur Extra class of operator license and who also holds the license document for a club station for which he/she is the license trustee and who has checked item 7F.

Gate 3 → A person holding a current operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) showing Advanced class of operator license and who has checked item 7E. Additionally, any person holding a current operator/primary station license document showing Advanced class of operator license and who also holds the license document for a club station for which he/she is the license trustee and who has checked item 7F.

Gate 4 → A person holding a current operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) showing any class of operator license and who has checked item 7E. Additionally, any person holding a current primary/operator station license document showing any class of operator license and who also holds the license document for a club station for which he/she is the license trustee and who has checked item 7F.

If you have not received a response within 90 days, write to Federal Communications Commission, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. Include a photocopy of your completed FCC Form 610-V.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

SECTION 1 MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

- ITEM 1** Type or print your last name and any suffix (Jr., Sr., II, etc.), first name, and middle initial. If a club, enter club name. The name you enter in item 1 **must agree** with the name on your current license.
- ITEM 2** Type or print numbers for the month, day, and year of your birth. Example, if you were born on September 20, 1944, enter 09-20-44.
- ITEM 3** Type or print your mailing address. It must agree with the mailing address on your current license. Type or print your two-letter state/territory code.
- ITEM 5** Enter the Fee Due. This information can be obtained from FCC Form 1070-V or by calling the FCC's Consumer Assistance Branch at (800) 322-1117 or (717) 337-1212.
- ITEM 6** Type or print the call sign shown on your unexpired license.
- ITEM 7** Enter an "X" in the proper box to apply for:

BOX 7A A call sign for your primary station that was previously shown on your license. Type or print the exact call sign requested. **DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 1 IS OPEN.**

BOX 7B A call sign for your primary station that was previously shown on the license of your deceased spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or in-law. Type or print the exact call sign requested. Type or print your relationship to the deceased. **DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 1 IS OPEN.**

BOX 7C A call sign for a club station, for which you are the license trustee, that was previously assigned to that club station. Type or print the exact call sign requested. **DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 1 IS OPEN.**

BOX 7D A call sign for a club station, for which you are the license trustee, that was previously assigned to the primary station of a person now deceased. Type or print the exact call sign requested. Type or print the relationship to the deceased of the person giving consent. The club must have held a club station license grant on March 24, 1995. **DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 1(A) IS OPEN.**

BOX 7E A vanity call sign for your primary station. **EXTRA CLASS OPERATORS: DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 2 IS OPEN. ADVANCED CLASS OPERATORS: DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 3 IS OPEN. GENERAL, TECHNICIAN PLUS, TECHNICIAN, AND NOVICE CLASS OPERATORS: DO NOT FILE FORM 610-V UNTIL GATE 4 IS OPEN.**

BOX 7F A vanity call sign for a club station for which you are the license trustee.

- ITEM 8** Attach a photocopy of your unexpired amateur operator/primary station license document (FCC Form 660) to this section of the form. If you checked item 7C, 7D or 7F, also staple a photocopy of your unexpired club station license document (FCC Form 660).

If you checked item 7D, retain in your files the written consent given by the former holder's close relative.

SECTION 2 MUST BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANTS WHO HAVE CHECKED ITEMS 7E OR 7F

- ITEM 9** Complete item 9 only if you have checked Box 7E or 7F. Enter up to 25 call signs in your order of preference. Select your preference list of call signs very carefully. Consult PR-5000 AMATEUR STATION VANITY CALL SIGN SYSTEM Fact Sheet #206-V and PR-5000 AMATEUR STATION SEQUENTIAL CALL SIGN SYSTEM Fact Sheet #206. List only call signs from the sequential call sign system groups for which your operator class of license is eligible:

Group A: Amateur Extra Class

Group B: Amateur Extra and Advanced Class

Group C: Amateur Extra, Advanced, General, and Technician Class

Group D: Amateur Extra, Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice Class

SECTION 3 MUST BE COMPLETED BY ALL APPLICANTS

- ITEM 10** Sign your name. Your signature must agree with your name as typed or printed in item 1, unless you are applying for a vanity call sign for a club station. In that case, the signature must be that of the license trustee.
- ITEM 11** Type or print the month, day, and year that you sign your application for a vanity call sign.
- ITEM 12** Type or print a telephone number where you can be reached during normal daytime business hours.

SEE FCC FORM 1070-V FOR FEE DUE AND INFORMATION
ON WHERE TO FILE YOUR APPLICATION

FCC 610-V Instructions
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Class operator may request, including request *in memoriam*, a Group C or D call sign for the club station for which he or she is license trustee.

(3) A **Novice Class operator** may request a Group D call sign for his or her primary station.

For further information, contact the FCC's Consumer Assistance Branch at 1-(800) 322-1117 or (717) 337-1212, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern time. (End Quote.)

The "Group Call Sign System"

Unless you previously held the call sign, all call signs selected under the vanity call sign program must be from the sequential call sign groups for which your operator class of license is eligible. This includes amateurs who are applying for the call sign of a close family relative.

All call sign formats available under the sequential call sign system are broken down into four different groups. The system is detailed in FCC Fact Sheet No. PR-5000 #206 which follows:

Table No. 1

Adapted from PR-5000 #206

AMATEUR STATION SEQUENTIAL CALL SIGN SYSTEM

A unique call sign is assigned to each amateur station during the processing of a license. The call sign format consists of the prefix, followed by the single numeral, followed by the suffix. The call sign prefixes can be one or two letters. Single-letter prefixes are either K, N, or W. Two letter combinations are either AA-AL, KA-KZ, NA-NZ, or WA-WZ. The numeral is a single number, 0 through 9, indicating a geographical district.

The station is reassigned its same call sign upon renewal or modification of its license, unless the licensee applies for a change to a new sequential call sign using FCC Form 610. Each new call sign is sequentially selected from the alphabetized regional-group list for the licensee's operator class and mailing address. The mailing address must be one where the licensee can receive mail delivery by the United States Postal Service. Certain combinations of letters are not used. [Note: The FCC is in the process of updating this Fact Sheet to include these unused combinations.] When the call signs in any regional-group list are exhausted, the selection is made from the next lower group.

GROUP A: For primary stations licensed to Amateur Extra Class Operators

Regions 1 to 10 - Continental 48 states:

- (1) Prefix K, N, or W, and a two-letter suffix;
- (2) Two letter prefix with the first letters AA-AK (except AH), NA-NZ (except NH, NL and NP), KA-KZ (except KH, KL and KP) or WA-WZ (except WH, WL and WP) and one letter suffix; and;
- (3) Two letter prefix with the first letters AA-AK, and two letter suffix.

Region 11 - Alaska:

Prefix AL, KL, NL or WL, and one letter suffix.

Region 12 - Caribbean area:

Prefix KP, NP, or WP, and one letter suffix.

Region 13 - Pacific area:

Prefix AH, KH, NH, or WH, and one letter suffix.

GROUP B: For primary stations licensed to Advanced Class Operators

Regions 1 to 10 - Continental 48 states:

Two letter prefix with the first letters NA-NZ (except NH, NL and NP), KA-KZ (except KH, KL and KP) or WA-WZ (except WH, WL and WP) and two letter suffix. [Special Note: According to FCC Public Notice: KC6, KG4 and KX6 and two letter suffix are not available to the sequential call sign system.]

Region 11 - Alaska:

Prefix AL and two letter suffix.

Region 12 - Caribbean area:

Prefix KP and two letter suffix.

Region 13 - Pacific area:

Prefix AH and two letter suffix.

GROUP C: For primary stations licensed to General, Technician Plus, and Technician Class Operators

Regions 1 to 10 - Continental 48 states:

Prefix K, N, or W, and a three-letter suffix;

Region 11 - Alaska:

Prefix KL, NL, or WL and two letter suffix.

Region 12 - Caribbean area:

Prefix NP or WP and two letter suffix.

Region 13 - Pacific area:

Prefix KH, NH, or WH and two letter suffix.

GROUP D: For primary stations licensed to Novice Class Operators

Regions 1 to 10 - Continental 48 states:

Two letter prefix KA-KZ (except KH, KL, and KP) or WA-WZ (except WH, WL and WP) and a three-letter suffix. [Special Notes: NA-NZ and three letter suffix **may not** be selected in any region. The letter X may not follow the digit in any 2x3 format call sign. See §2.302. According to FCC Public Notice, KC4AAA-AAF and KC4USA-USZ are not available to the sequential call sign system.]

Region 11 - Alaska:

Prefix KL or WL and three letter suffix.

Region 12 - Caribbean area:

Prefix KP or WP and three letter suffix.

Region 13 - Pacific area:

Prefix KH or WH and three letter suffix.

THE REGIONS AND NUMERALS ARE:

(2 letter state postal codes. The regions and call sign digits are the same for Regions 1 through 9.)

Region Number (Numeral used in call sign)

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | CT, ME, MA, NH, RI and VT (1) |
| 2 | NJ and NY (2) |
| 3 | DE, DC, MD and PA (3) |
| 4 | AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, TN and VA (4) |
| 5 | AR, LA, MS, NM, OK and TX (5) |
| 6 | CA (6) |
| 7 | AR, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, WA and WY (7) |
| 8 | MI, OH and WV (8) |
| 9 | IL, IN and WI (9) |
| 10 | CO, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND and SD (Numeral is 0) |
| 11 | Alaska (Any numeral 1 through 0. KL9KAA-KL9KHZ is |

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reserved for assignment to U.S. personnel stationed in Korea.)

- 12 Caribbean Insular area. (The numeral 1 indicates Navassa Island; 2 indicates Virgin Islands; 3 or 4 indicates Commonwealth of Puerto Rico except Desecheo Island; and 5 indicates Desecheo Island.)
- 13 Hawaii and Pacific Insular areas. (The numeral 1 indicates Baker or Howland Island; 2 indicates Guam; 3 indicates Johnston Island; 4 indicates Midway Island; 5 indicates Palmyra or Jarvis Island; 5 followed by suffix letter K indicates Kingman Reef; 6 or 7 indicates Hawaii except Kure Island; 7 followed by the letter K indicates Kure Island; 8 indicates American Samoa; 9 indicates Wake, Wilkes, or Peale Island; and 0 indicates the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.)

Licensee information is retained in the FCC's Amateur Service database for two years beyond expiration to provide a grace period during which persons who unintentionally fail to renew their licenses have additional time to do so.

When will the first gate open?

The FCC has not yet issued the *Public Notice* announcing the opening of the first gate and at this point it is unknown when the first gate will open. The best guess is within 60 days.

The FCC did, however, issue the Form 610-V *Amateur Radio Station Vanity Call Sign Request* (application form) to their printer which is a federal prison. Print masters were also sent to the W5YI Group and to the ARRL. In addition, we also understand that a printable copy of the form was posted to the FCC's Internet Website on December 1.

We are including a Form 610-V with this newsletter. **VERY IMPORTANT: YOU MAY NOT SUBMIT THIS FORM UNTIL YOUR APPROPRIATE "GATE" OPENS!**

The FCC also released Form 1070-V. This last form entitled: *Notice of Fee Due for FCC 610V* details the steps to be taken to submit the Form 610-V application and fee.

Basically, the form states that the \$30.00 fee may be paid by check, bank draft, money order or credit card. "If paying by check, bank draft or money order, your remittance must be denominated in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. financial institution and made payable to 'FCC'. No post-dated, altered or third-party checks will be accepted. No checks will be accepted if issue date is older than six months. Do not send cash." An FCC Form 159, *Remittance Advice*, must be used when paying by credit card. When your "Gate" opens, the 610-V application package should be sent to:

Federal Communications Commission
Amateur Vanity Call Sign Requests
P.O. Box 358924
Pittsburgh, PA 15251-5924

If you wish to hand carry, courier or overnight express your application to Pittsburgh, it should be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the appropriate Post Office address clearly marked on the outside. Send to the following address:

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Mellon Bank
525 William Penn Way
27th Floor, Room 153-2713
Pittsburgh, PA 15259
ATTN: Wholesale Lockbox Shift Supervisor

Deliveries are accepted 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the above address. The formal filing date of an application will be either the date it was delivered to Pittsburgh, if that day was a regular FCC business day, or the next regular FCC business day, if the delivery date was a weekend or FCC holiday. Each application will be date stamped, the \$30.00 fee deposited to the FCC's account and then forwarded to Gettysburg for call sign processing.

Where do I get the FCC Form 610-V?

Eventually you will be able to obtain additional application forms from the FCC's Form's Distribution Center, 2803 52nd Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20781 or by telephoning toll free: (800) 418-3676 (FORM). At this writing, the FCC has not yet received their shipment of forms ...and there is no telling exactly when they will receive them. But we have had several thousand forms printed which cost us several hundred dollars and are making them available to the amateur community. (A donation of \$1.00 will be appreciated, but not necessary.) Please send a large business-size self-addressed stamped envelope to:

The W5YI Group, Inc.
FCC Form 610-V Request
P.O. Box 565101
Dallas, TX 75356-5101

How do I know what call signs are available?

The W5YI Group offers a vanity call sign availability service. Basically we have programmed a computer to print a custom computer disk file of every unassigned 4 and 5 character call sign on a particular day for a specific region. It can easily be read with any word processor or from DOS.

We update our FCC database of assigned call signs daily. Included on the disk are all assignable 1x2, 2x1, 2x2 and 1x3 call signs - but not 2x3 call signs since there are close to 9 million of them! We can, however, tell you if a specific 2x3 call sign has been assigned on the telephone. Cost is only \$15.95 - Credit card orders go to toll free: 1-800-669-9594.

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● According to an AMSAT bulletin, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) has donated 25,000 pounds (nearly \$40,000) to the AMSAT Phase 3D satellite project. In addition, it was announced that the RSGB will contribute another 25,000 pounds on the condition that AMSAT-UK raises a similar amount from other sources.

On behalf of the Phase-3D Team, AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO expressed his sincere thanks to the RSGB for its generosity. He said that, like all contributions to this cause, this significant RSGB donation will be instrumental in assuring that the satellite is completed and launched.

● Tom Clark W3IWI passes along the information that the International Earth Rotation Service (IERS) has announced the introduction of a "leap second" to occur at the end of December 1995. The announcement says that the Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) will sequence as follows:

- ▶ 31 Dec 1995 23 hours 59 min. 59 sec.
- ▶ 31 Dec 1995 23 hours 59 min. 60 sec.
- ▶ 1 Jan 1996 0 hours 0 min. 0 sec.

● Doug Loughmiller, KO5I (also GØSYX), is leaving his post as UoSAT Spacecraft Operations and Groundstation Manager effective Dec. 12th. Doug will return to the United States. He had been stationed at the University of Surrey (outside of London, England) for the past three years.

He said "The time has come for me to return to Texas to once again regain my place on the sidelines as a mere observer while pursuing other professional pursuits." He will be replaced by Chris Jackson, ZL2TPO/G7UPN, the author of the very popular WISP program who joined UoSAT about a year ago.

"My decision to leave UoSAT will undoubtedly mark my departure from amateur space activities. For over the past 15 years I have actively promoted, in one role or another, the concept of radio amateurs placing satellites into orbit and making constructive use of them for the betterment of the entire amateur radio hobby world-wide. I have been extremely fortunate in that period of time to have had the privilege to work with some of the finest people within the amateur radio fraternity."

"The amateur satellite program has come a long way since 1972 when I

tracked my first OSCAR and decided that I wanted to play a role in this truly exciting aspect of amateur radio. While we have some truly remarkable things to look back upon, I am convinced that the best is yet to come.

"As many of you know, I have felt for some time that the Phase 3D project is very important to amateur radio. It is absolutely essential that this mission succeeds and serves as a catalyst for further technical development within the entire amateur radio community as we move into the 21st century."

● H-2782, a bill based on PRB-1, is now Massachusetts Law! The *Ham Radio Tower Bill*, as it has commonly been referred to, was signed by Governor Weld, Thanksgiving weekend and takes effect in 90 days. The bill, which mirrors PRB-1, states that:

"No zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit the construction or use of an antenna structure by a federally licensed amateur radio operator. Zoning ordinances and by-laws may reasonably regulate the location and height of such antenna structures for the purposes of health, safety, or aesthetics; provided, however, that such ordinances and by-laws reasonably allow for sufficient height of such antenna structures so as to effectively accommodate amateur radio communications by federally licensed amateur radio operators and constitute the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the legitimate purposes of the city or town enacting such ordinance or by-law."

The big advantage to Bay state amateurs is that they can now go to their town hall and point to Chapter 225 which requires local regulations to be reasonable. And if it is necessary to go to court for satisfaction, either state or federal court may be chosen. The new law takes effect February 23, 1996.

● A Westchester County judge has upheld a 90 day moratorium on the approval of additional cellular telephone facilities in the town of Harrison, NY. The moratorium was deemed a reasonable measure designed to give the town a period of time in which to enact zoning changes. The town's new regulations limit cellular antennas to commercial areas, require expert public impact assessments ...and yearly monitoring of the radiated power. (Thanks, K2LZ)

● Canadian amateurs are concerned that their annual Amateur Radio license fees will be going up. The United States is one of the few countries that does not ask their amateurs to pay a share of the cost of radio spectrum management. But it could come at some point! The FCC's computers are already programmed to accept license fees.

● Ehrhorn Technological Operations, Inc. (ETO), has merged with Applied Science and Technology, Inc., of Woburn, MA. ETO's Chairman, Dick Ehrhorn, W4ETO told us that delivery and warranty service commitments on their line of ALPHA radio products are not affected. ETO continues to operate from its Colorado Springs location with no anticipated changes in personnel. Ray Heaton remains the primary sales and service contact for amateur radio customers.

● Len Winkler, KB7LPW's "Ham Radio & More" show is now heard on 64 stations nationwide on the Talk America Radio Network ...including live WWCR shortwave on 7.435 MHz Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time (22:00 UTC.)

● The premiere issue of *CQ VHF* has hit the streets. The January/February 1996 issue covers repeaters & FM, packet radio, amateur satellites, ATV, and VHF/UHF weak signal operation. The inaugural issue carries a product review of the Radio Shack HTX-212 two-meter mobile transceiver which it calls an excellent value.

● A page 3 editorial by Rob Ludlow, VE3YE in the November 1995 issue of *The Canadian Amateur* says it is "Time to Reconsider the CW Requirement." While fun, "...CQ is another mode, another option, like many others." Ludlow adds, "Ham radio has changed and is continuing to change. We must acknowledge and embrace these changes...." *The Canadian Amateur* is the journal of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, Inc., their national ham radio society. RAC is in the process of seriously examining the mandatory CW issue.

● The FCC has changed the Question Pools associated with the (commercial) General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) and the Radar Endorsement effective January 1, 1996.

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1995 EXAMINATION STATISTICS - NEW AND UPGRADING AMATEURS

FIRST TIME LICENSED BY MONTH AND LICENSE CLASS (Beginning April 10, 1995)

CLASS	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL	%/TOTAL
Novice	72	112	76	51	47	53	73	97	581	2.6%
Technician	1791	3310	2613	1873	2269	1744	1908	2152	17660	79.2%
Tech Plus	305	462	269	213	212	167	179	188	1995	8.9%
General	70	122	74	53	51	29	26	27	452	2.0%
Advanced	20	25	15	4	6	3	5	1	79	.4%
Extra	9	8	8	2	5	1	11	2	46	.2%
Clubs	315	408	215	143	243	92	53	24	1493	6.7%
TOTAL	2582	4447	3270	2339	2833	2089	2255	2491	22306	100.0%

AMATEURS WHO UPGRADED TO A HIGHER CLASS DURING THE MONTH (Beginning April 10, 1995)

CLASS	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	TOTAL	%/TOTAL
Novice	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	12	.1%
Technician	3	2	4	3	14	1	1	2	30	.3%
Tech Plus	363	576	468	379	404	318	364	371	3288	27.4%
General	372	596	474	394	420	315	407	353	3364	28.0%
Advanced	432	654	581	232	243	232	276	247	2923	24.4%
Extra	289	491	390	237	272	215	254	205	2384	19.8%
TOTAL	1459	2319	1917	1245	1361	1085	1302	1178	12001	100.0%

The FCC changed over to a new Amateur Service computer system between mid 1994 and early 1995. We did not get accurate licensing statistics during this period. Since we have the FCC's Amateur Service database online, we have written software which extracts the first time licensed amateurs and those upgrading to a new operator class. (This information is coded into of the FCC database.)

The FCC apparently began using their new format on April 10, 1995 - since some of the data prior to that date is in a slightly different format and can not easily be extracted. (We are working on it, however.)

One thing seems certain, however. The number of new amateurs entering the ham radio hobby is down 25% over the 1991-1993 period.

NEW AMATEURS BY MONTH - 1991 to 1994

Month:	1991	1992	1993	1994
January	1816	4030	4728	2398
February	2162	4092	3880	2589
March	2656	4806	4239	3010
April	5749	5215	3290	1773
May	4714	4178	5035	2920
June	3231	5957	5978	*3000
July	4676	3843	2125	2297
August	4121	3003	3787	*3000
September	2407	2732	5403	*3000
October	4501	2035	2754	2973
November	2687	1525	1930	2636
December	3940	3332	3037	3919
TOTAL	42660	44748	46186	*33515

* = These months have been estimated since we do not yet have accurate figures for these months.

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of December 1, 1995:

Radio District	Gp. "A" Extra	Gp. "B" Advan.	Gp. "C" Tech/Gen	Gp. "D" Novice
0 (*)	AB0AB	KI0AB	(****)	KB0UPU
1 (*)	AA1PB	KE1DS	N1WGM	KB1BVK
2 (*)	AA2ZP	KG2FD	(****)	KB2WMN
3 (*)	AA3MZ	KE3VL	N3WMN	KB3BLV
4 (*)	AE4OJ	KT4HE	(****)	KF4FEZ
5 (*)	AC5FU	KK5VJ	(****)	KC5RYN
6 (*)	AC6RC	KQ6CI	(****)	KE6AAH
7 (*)	AB7NS	KJ7SU	(****)	KC7ODK
8 (*)	AA8VG	KG8UK	(****)	KC8BRI
9 (*)	AA9QS	KG9EX	(****)	KB9MDM
N. Mariana Is.	KH0U	AH0AW	KH0EN	WH0ABD
Guam	WH2R	AH2DB	KH2PK	WH2ANO
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6OI	(****)	WH6CYX
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8O	AH8AH	KH8CK	WH8ABE
Wake W. Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7QG	(****)	WL7CQE
Virgin Is.	WP2U	KP2CI	NP2IS	WP2AIA
Puerto Rico	(**)	(***)	(****)	WP4NGP

* = All 2-by-1 call signs have been allocated. 2-by-2 (Group A) AA-AK call signs now being assigned.

** = All 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska & Puerto Rico.

*** = All KP4-by-2 call signs assigned in Puerto Rico.

**** = Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs have now run out in all but the 1st and 3rd call district.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]